

APR 23 2004

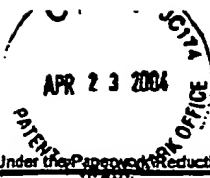


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RCE 19879

PTO/SB/30 (05-03)

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Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal

Address to:
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450A

Application Number	09/936,289
Filing Date	September 12, 2001
First Named Inventor	Taizo SATO
Group Art Unit	2879
Examiner Name	Sikha ROY
Attorney Docket Number	SATO=22

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

- a. ☒ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
- i. ☒ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on March 31, 2004
- ii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required).
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees

The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when RCE is filed.

- a. ☐ The director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 02-4035
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) 04/26/2004 SZEWDIE1 00000033 09936289
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) 01 FC:1801 770.00 0P (☐ \$ _____ already paid for _____ month(s) extension of time on _____)
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed (Check No. _____)
- c. ☒ Credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed) authorized in the amount of \$ 770.00
- WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**
- d. ☒ Provisional extension of time if needed. Applicants authorize any charge of additional fees (except issue fee) which may be required in connection with this application to Deposit Account No. 02-4035.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Anne M. Kombau	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	25,884
Signature		Date	April 23, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Name (Print/Type)		Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	
Signature		Date	

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing this form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.